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PLEASE REPLY TO
NEW YORK OFFICE

September 1, 2000

BY HAND

Hon. Jack B. Weinstein
United States District Court
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
New York, NY 11201

*Re: Department of Amazonas, et al. v. Philip Morris Companies, Inc., et al.,
00 Civ. 2881 (JBW); Department of Antioquia v. Philip Morris Companies,
Inc., et al., 00 Civ. 3857 (JBW); Department of Magdalena, et al. v. Philip
Morris Companies, Inc., et al., 00 Civ. 4530 (JBW)*

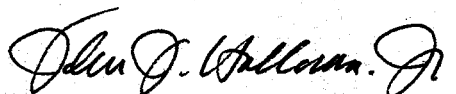
Dear Judge Weinstein:

This firm represents the Departments of the Republic of Colombia in the above actions. Philip Morris has moved, at 3:39 p.m. today by letter application, for an extension of time to answer or move against the complaints in the above actions. The letter application should be denied for the following reasons.

Philip Morris has been in possession of the complaint herein since May 24, 2000. On May 24, 2000, it issued a press release asserting that there were no factual or legal grounds for the claims. See attached. Now, Philip Morris is requesting until October 8, 2000 to respond to the complaint. Philip Morris has had ample time to respond the complaint.

Any further delay of the proceedings would be highly prejudicial to the interests of the Departments of the Republic of Colombia. Philip Morris' motion for a stay is meritless. Plaintiffs have responded to Philip Morris' motion for a stay and, for all of the reasons set forth in that opposition memorandum (a copy of which is enclosed), Philip Morris' application for an extension of time should be denied.

Very truly yours,



John J. Halloran, Jr.

JJH:mlc
Enclosure

cc: Craig A. Stewart
Via Telecopy (Opposition Memorandum omitted)

No Basis For Suit By Colombian States, Says Philip Morris International

NEW YORK, May 24, 2000 — Philip Morris International believes it will prevail in the lawsuit filed by some of the provinces or “departments” of Colombia. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Brooklyn, N.Y., seeks recovery of excise taxes allegedly lost as a result of cigarette smuggling.

“There is no legal or factual basis for the claims in this lawsuit,” said Michael Adams, Philip Morris International chief counsel for Latin America. “The case should be dismissed, but if it proceeds, we have every intention of prevailing.”

“We find it noteworthy that the central government of Colombia, which sets and collects the excise tax, is not a party to this lawsuit,” Adams said.

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